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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Application of Michael S. South et al.  
Serial No. 10/009,447

Art Unit 1624

Filed April 3, 2002

012 to enter  
VB  
6/22/04

Confirmation No. 1709

For SUBSTITUTED POLYCYCLIC ARYL AND HETEROARYL PYRIMIDINONES  
USEFUL AS ANTICOAGULANTS

Examiner V. Balasubramanian

June 3, 2004

**LETTER TO THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

This letter is in response to the Final Office action mailed April 7, 2004.

The Office has provisionally rejected claims 12-16, 20-24, and 28-32 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of copending Application number 10/275,856. This is the sole remaining grounds for rejection of the pending claims. According to MPEP §804(I)(B), however, this rejection is improper. Specifically, MPEP §804(I)(B) states that

[a] "provisional" double patenting rejection should continue to be made by the examiner in each application as long as there are conflicting claims in more than one application unless that "provisional" double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining in one of the applications. If the "provisional" double patenting rejection in one application is the only rejection remaining in that application, the examiner should withdraw the rejection and permit the application to issue as a patent, thereby converting the "provisional" double patenting rejection in the other application(s) into a double patenting rejection at the time the one application issues as a patent.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the provisional double patenting rejection in the present case be removed and the application allowed to issue. In response, if appropriate, a double patenting rejection may be raised against pending